

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled claims 1-11 and added claims 12-41. This brings the claims into agreement with the unconsidered Preliminary Amendment filed with the application. Also, these properly presented claims render the Examiner's double-patenting rejection moot. A copy of the Preliminary Amendment and the documentation verifying its filing are attached.

Applicant's attorney contacted the Examiner regarding the discrepancy in the claims by telephone on July 2, 2004. The Examiner informed Applicant's attorney that the Preliminary Amendment was not before him when the case was examined, and the Examiner requested that the Applicant respond by representing the claim amendments. The Examiner also indicated that he would perform an initial examination of the properly presented claims. Applicant respectfully requests this examination.

Applicant also notes that the Examiner did not consider an Information Disclosure Statement filed with the application. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the cited references and return a properly executed PTO-1449.

No check is enclosed for excess claim fees. Applicant paid for the excess claims at the time the application was filed. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

July 6, 2004

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